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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 10/523,386 | 02/01/2005 | Johannes Otto Voorman | NL 020727 | 4140 |
| 24737 | 7590 | 10/25/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS | | | LAMB, CHRISTOPHER RAY | |
| P.O. BOX 3001 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510 | | | 2627 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/523,386 | VOORMAN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Christopher R. Lamb | Art Unit 2627 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,4,5 and 8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,5 and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 August 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on August 16th, 2006. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi (US 6,236,632).

Regarding claim 1:

Hayashi discloses an optical disk system comprising at least one photo detector (Fig. 6: 12) for detecting at least a part of said optical disk and in response generating detection signals (column 7, lines 14-16) and

comprising at least one slicer for slicing amplified detection signals (Fig. 6: 18), characterized in that

 said optical disk system comprises at least one generator in a feedback path between said slicer and said variable gain amplifier (Fig. 6: 30, 31, 26) for controlling said variable gain amplifier non-linearly (Fig. 8: the gain is proportional to the oscillating line: its variation makes it nonlinear), and

said generator comprises a converter for converting voltages into currents (Fig. 6: the resistor in block 30: a resistor is a voltage to current converter), a further converter for converting voltages into currents (Fig. 6: 31; the RFVCO has as its input a voltage and outputs a clock signal, which would be a current signal: column 7, lines 52-64), and

at least one capacitor located between both converters (Fig. 6: the capacitor is visible in block 30).

Regarding claim 5:

The system of Hayashi is a circuit; all other elements of this claim have been identified with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 8:

This is a method claim corresponding to claim 1 and is met when the system operates.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter were given in the previous Office Action.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed August 16th, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues claims 1, 5, and 8 are allowable because the capacitor of Hayashi is not "located between" the converters. Instead, Applicant argues, it is a capacitor going to ground.

The Examiner agrees that the capacitor of Hayashi is going to ground. However, it is still located between the converters. In Fig. 6, it is quite clearly positioned between the first converter (the resistor of block 30) and the second converter (the RFVCO 31).

Applicant implies that to be "located between" the two elements one end of the capacitor must be connected to the first converter and the other end to the second converter; however, there is no language in the claim that requires this interpretation. The capacitor of Hayashi can be reasonably interpreted to be "located between" the two converters even though it does not create an electrical path from one to the other.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2627

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Lamb whose telephone number is (572) 272-5264. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CRL 10/18/06


WILLIAM KORZUCH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600